

Great high school sports programs promote character and leadership. The great accomplishments of these fine programs instill pride in their students and the entire South Florida community. Most importantly, these young student-athletes will carry with them the knowledge that they are champions, and they can be victorious over any challenge that life brings their way.

I submit for the RECORD the names of the coaches, principals, and athletes so that their incredible accomplishments will forever be documented by this body.

Dillard High School, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 2002-2003 Florida Class 6A Boys Basketball Championship, Principal, Rayfield Henderson, Coach, Darryl Burrows, Chris Johnson, Kevin Thomas, Johnny Williams, Marcus Edward, Joe McCray, Vincent Mosley, Micheal Reddick, Jermaine Haynes, Chris Rawls, Jimmy Tobias, Louis Holmes, Lavell Payne, Marcus Allen, Pat Sims, and Renarko Cunningham.

Deerfield High School, Deerfield Beach, Florida, 2002-2003 Florida Class 6A Girls Basketball Championship, Principal, Kathleen Martinez, Coach, Everett Jackson, Kendra Goodley, Charnika Foster, Shuteamia Brayboy, Cristal Randolph, Chytarra Kintchen, Princess Stewart, Lakeena Gillion, Jessica Brown, Virginia Gregoire, Veronica Randolph, Kentrina Wilson, Ju'Erica Overstreet, Monteza Hepburn, and Chalice McMillian.

South Broward High School, Hollywood, Florida, 2002-2003 Florida Class 5A Girls Basketball Championship, Principal, Steven Pomerantz, Coach, Abby Ward, Julia Noga, Domonique Thomas, Alysha Harvin, Keunta Miles, Brittany Washington, LaShaunda Slade, Krystle Stanley, Tonya Holmes, LaQuetta Ferguson, and Lamese James.

#### TRIBUTE TO PRIVATE JESSICA LYNCH ON NATIONAL FORMER PRISONER OF WAR RECOGNITION DAY

### HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's heroes on National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day.

The holiday is all the more poignant this year. This year the world celebrated the rescue of POW Private Jessica Lynch from an Iraqi hospital. This brave West Virginia woman fought capture as she watched her comrades die next to her. West Virginians are especially proud of the rescue of one of our own and proud of the troops, including some of West Virginia's own National Guard, who were involved in her return. This was a truly remarkable moment for West Virginia's service men and women.

We may never know all the details of the ordeal Private Lynch endured while held in Iraqi captivity. Like so many POWs before her, not only are there physical wounds to heal but mental and spiritual. As Americans, it is our duty to welcome back these heroes who fought for our freedom. We must give all of our returned POWs the support they require and deserve and share with them our pride in their sacrifice to the Nation. We give thanks to God for the return of our POWs and ask Him to watch over our soldiers and our Nation.

REMEMBERING IAN D.W. SUTHERLAND, LIEUTENANT COLONEL, U.S. ARMY SPECIAL FORCES (RETIRED)

### HON. JO ANN EMERSON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mrs. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, this week, as we watch the events unfolding in Operation Iraqi Freedom, our hearts go out—not just to the Iraqi people who we are liberating from tyranny and oppression—but to our dear brave friends, the men and women in uniform serving in the American Armed Forces.

The men and women of our Armed Forces have been on the front lines in Operation Iraqi Freedom and other conflicts throughout our country's history. Some of these men and women are easy to see. They are on television, in newspapers and some have even called in to talk to radio reporters about the latest happenings on the battlefield.

Others are not so easy to see, but their work does not go unnoticed. They are the Special Forces. This week, in Missouri's Bootheel one of our own retired Special Forces was lost.

Retired U.S. Army Lt. Col. Ian D.W. Sutherland passed away after a skydiving accident. Lt. Col. Sutherland was a longtime resident and friend to many in the Cape Girardeau County area. Raised in Tennessee, Lt. Col. Sutherland entered the U.S. Army in 1951. During his military career he was a member of the Old Guard—the Army ceremonial unit—and participated in the state funerals of President John F. Kennedy and Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

He served three tours of duty in Vietnam, was associated with the 82nd Airborne Division (Green Berets), and was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, Iran. He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel from the Special Forces School at Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. His service was recognized by many. He was the recipient of many awards including the Silver Star, two Legion of Merits, and five Bronze Stars.

But when he retired, he didn't simply sit back and enjoy watching life. Instead, he went on to law school and furthered his lifelong career in public service by serving as an assistant prosecuting attorney. At the time of his death, he was the First Assistant prosecuting attorney in Cape Girardeau County. In a 15-year career as a trial lawyer, he prosecuted thousands of cases and tried 123 jury trials.

Mr. Speaker, even though Lt. Col. Sutherland is no longer here, his work, his commitment and his love of God, country and service continue. And like so many who came before him and those who follow after, he served his country with distinction and honor—and that is how we in Missouri will always remember him.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2003

### HON. LANE EVANS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 10, 2003*

Mr. EVANS. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing H.R. 1712, the "Veterans Federal Pro-

curement Opportunity Act of 2003." This bill provides numerous checks and balances to assure that veteran small business owners receive appropriate consideration when pursuing Federal contracts. This measure also provides the mechanisms to achieve goals for awarding federal contracts to specified small business concerns already established by Congress. It further establishes a Development Program for Small Business Concerns Owned and Controlled by Qualified Service-Disabled Veterans; provides for a 3% Federal procurement participation goal for veteran-owned small businesses; increases the Government-wide Federal small business participation goal from 23 to 28 percent; eliminates double counting of small business categories; credits both prime contracts awarded to small businesses and applicable small business subcontracts awarded by prime contractors towards the achievement of an agency's small business participation goals; provides for a penalty to be assessed to prime contractors who fail to utilize small business firms outlined in subcontracting plans subsequent to a contract award; provides a restriction on the use of funds by an agency in the subsequent year after failing to meet its small business subcontracting goals; authorizes the appropriation of \$1 million annually for the National Veterans Business Development Corporation in fiscal years 2005 and 2006, and extends authorization for the Advisory Committee on Veterans Business Affairs through September 30, 2009.

Like our veterans of prior wars, our men and women in uniform have fought with courage and honor during the war to win freedom for the people of Iraq. As we have witnessed our servicemen and women prosecute Iraqi Freedom, we have watched our best and bravest confront the horrors of war to defeat the forces of evil. As a nation we are grateful and the men and women who so unselfishly serve this nation in our Armed Forces. We are thankful not only for today's soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, but for the veterans who have blazed the trail before.

Our servicemen and women have given much to this nation. We, in turn, as a nation have a profound obligation to them. We must provide the medical care our veterans need as well as promptly adjudicate their claims for service-connected disability. In addition, we should provide those veterans who elect to begin a business of their own with an opportunity to do so upon their return to civilian life. Our veterans have much to contribute to this nation following their service in uniform to this country. The time veterans have spent in service to this country, however, has competitively disadvantaged them in the marketplace relative to those not sacrificing a break in their careers in service to this country.

Veterans who have been inflicted with service-connected disabilities are placed at an even higher disadvantage. Service-disabled veterans may not be readily accepted into traditional employment, or their disabilities may be such that they are unable to adapt to a traditional 9-5 job. Despite their disabilities, these veterans continue to be both creative and innovative, and have much to contribute to this nation's productive capacity—"We owe them this chance!"

Our nation has not achieved its goals for contracting with requisite categories of small business concerns. For federal contracting